(i) Handloom Weaving:

No. of Household units — 1223956

No. of Non-household units — 680.

Household Members:

(ii) (a) Weaving Activity — 1716440
(b) Preparatory Work — 280313.

(b) and (c) No specific report has been received about any powerloom units running in loss. Handlooms and Handicrafts being in decentralised sector, such data are not maintained.

(d) In respect of powerlooms, Government has been implementing schemes such as setting up of Powerloom Service Centres, upgradation of the same, Computer Aided Design Centres, Insurance Schemes for Powerloom Workers, etc.

Major Schemes for handloom development include Project Package Scheme, Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme, Health Package Schemes, Group Insurance Schemes, Thrift Fund Schemes and Mill Gate Price Scheme. Several Schemes are also implemented for development of handicrafts including Departmentally Run Training Centres, Apprenticeship Training Scheme, Assistance to Central/State Handicrafts Corporations and Apex Societies, Training of Trainers, Schemes for Revival of Languishing Crafts and other social security schemes.

Development of Handicrafts in Assam

2629. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken by Government for promotion and development of handicrafts in Assam; and

(b) the funds allocated and provided for upgradation of skills of traditional artisans and craftsmen during 1998-99, District-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) The details of steps taken by the Government for promotion, development of handicrafts in the country including in the State of Assam include: training; setting up of crafts development centres; opening of new emporia and renovation/ expansion of existing exporia; exhibition and publicity; workshed-cum-housing etc.

(b) A sum of Rs. 28.61 lakhs has been sanctioned to the State of Assam during 1998-99, till date, for upgradation of skills of artisans and crftsmen District-wise data is not maintained.

Jute Manufactured Items

2630. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the jute manaufactured items despite increasing demands in foreign countries are affected adversely due to lack of support from Government;

(b) whether Government agencies which are concerned about export growth are mostly failing to explore proper avenues for increasing the export output;

(c) the details of agencies working at present for directing the export to be augmented, their locations, turnover with information and the assistance rendered during the past three years;

(d) whether any further steps are taken to save the industry manufacturing jute and jute made items; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Government has provided consistent and adequate support to Jute Manufactures Development Council (JMDC), a statutory body under Ministry of Textiles set up for monitoring the growth of export of jute products in the